

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 18 and 32-40 have been amended herein and claims 1-17 have been cancelled. New claims 41-50 are submitted herein. All claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended herein. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-17 (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A system in a computer environment for teaching critical thinking skills to a learner, said system comprising:

a content module operable to receive and store informational content and to provide said content to said learner;

a query module operable to receive and store questions and to provide said questions to said learner, and further operable to receive and store said learner's answers to said questions and said learner's justifications for said answers, said learner's answers and said learner's justifications submitted concurrently by said learner;

a coach module operable to provide said learner with information to assist said learner in formulating said learner's answers and said learner's justifications;

an analysis module operable to analyze learner answers and justifications in order to form at least one result and to provide said at least one result to said learner;

an expert module operable to receive and store an expert's answers and justifications and to provide said expert answers and justifications to said learner; and

a learner interface module operate to provide a connection between said learner and said system.

19. (original) The system of claim 18 further comprising a reference module operable to receive and store reference material and to provide said reference material to said learner.

20. (original) The system of claim 18 further comprising an interaction module operable to allow said learner to interact with other learners' answers and justifications.

21. (original) The system of claim 20 wherein said interaction module is operable to display all learners' answers to said question and the justifications for these answers.

22. (original) The system of claim 20 wherein said interaction module is operable to e-mail a comment from said learner to another learner.

23. (original) The system of claim 18 further comprising a progress report module operable to provide said learner with information indicative of said learner's progress through said informational content and said questions.

24. (original) The system of claim 18 further including an author interface operable to provide a connection between an author and said system.

25. (original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a features module operable to receive feature selections from said author and to store said selections.

26. (original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a learner feedback module operable to allow the author to select the information that the system will provide to said learner concerning said learner's answers and justifications.

27. (original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a data reporting module that is operable to allow the author to determine the information he or she will receive concerning the learners' answers and justifications.

28. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said content, query and expert module store information in a database.

29. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said analysis module is a spreadsheet application.

30. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said analysis module is operable to perform statistical analysis.

31. (original) The system of claim 18 wherein said content module provides said informational content and said query module provides said question as part of a first electronic page and said analysis module provides said at least one result as part of a second electronic page.

32. (currently amended) The system of claim 18 wherein at least one of said modules contains ~~HTML~~ Hypertext Markup Language instructions.

33. (currently amended) A ~~computer program product~~ system in a computer environment for teaching critical thinking skills to a learner, said system comprising:

a computer readable medium containing computer readable code thereon for teaching critical thinking skills to a learner, said computer readable code comprising :

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to transmit informational content and a question associated with said informational content over a communications network to a client computer;

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to receive and store an answer and a justification over a communications network from said client computer, said answer and said justification submitted concurrently from said client computer;

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to perform an analysis of said stored answers and justifications and provide a result;

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to transmit said result over a communications network to said client computer; and

computer readable code devices configured to cause a computer to transmit an expert answer and justification over a communications network to said client computer.

34. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving a resource selection over said communication network from said client computer and for transmitting resource information over said communications network to said client computer.

35. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving an interaction selection over said communications network from said client computer and for transmitting the answers and justifications of all learners over said communications network to said client computer.

36. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ system of claim 35 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving a comment about another learner's answer and justification over said communications network from said client computer and for transmitting said comment to an e-mail account associated with said other learner.

37. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for receiving and storing information content, questions and expert answers and justifications.

38. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ system of claim 33 wherein said informational content and said question are transmitted as part of a first electronic page and said result is transmitted as part of a second electronic page.

39. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ system of claim 38 wherein said expert answer and justification is transmitted as part of said second electronic page.

40. (currently amended) The ~~computer program product~~ system of claim 33 wherein said computer readable code further includes computer readable code devices for

obtaining data relating to site usage, learner characteristics, site performance, or learner motivation and transmitting said data to a second client computer.

41. (new) A method in a computing environment for teaching critical thinking skills, said method comprising:

providing informational content and a prompt concerning said informational content to a learner;

providing said learner with access to assistance from a teacher;

receiving from said learner a response to said prompt and a justification for said response, said response submitted by said learner concurrently with said justification;

conducting an analysis involving said response, said analysis providing at least one result;

providing said at least one result to said learner; and

providing said learner with access to a response of an expert and a justification from said expert.

42. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising providing reference material to said learner, said reference material designed to assist said learner in forming said response and said justification.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein said reference material includes an electronic link to a Web site containing background information concerning said informational content.

44. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content and said prompt are presented as part of a first electronic page and said at least one result is presented as part of a second electronic page.

45. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein said response and said justification are entered by said learner on a single electronic page.

46. (new) The method of claim 41, further comprising allowing said learner to interact with the responses and justifications of other learners.

47. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content is a writing sample.

48. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content comprises audio.

49. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein said informational content comprises video.

50. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein said response is a numerical rating.